






CITY OF LINCOLN BUILDING & SAFETY

Building & Safety streamlining

Mayor's Building & Safety Streamlining Committee has sent eighteen recommendations to the Mayor's Office for final review. Many of the recommendations have been implemented and others are in the final stage of implementation.

 Put Special Permits on-line to display special permits, use permits, maps and council resolutions to be used by architects, developers, and the general public. This valuable tool assists design professionals in having correct information for permit application. Special Permits for the past three years are currently on-line and plans are to eventually place all special permits on-line.

 Provide a Building & Safety Information Kiosk to assist homeowners with their projects. The new informational kiosk is now located in the Building & Safety lobby for use by homeowners to view maps, application forms, legal descriptions and frequently asked questions. The kiosk is designed to allow the homeowner to gather information through the web site, rather than spending time at the counter.





 Provide seminars to design professionals. The AIA and Building & Safety developed a series of seminars for AIA members, developers and homebuilders. The seminars are monthly and began in February. The remaining seminars will be held Wednesday, April 21st, on Building Code Topics of Interest, presented by Chuck Zimmerman; and Wednesday, May 19th, Architects and Engineers Laws, presented by Charles Nelson. Attendance has been running over 50. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Boardroom at 12th & N Streets.

 Publish a quarterly newsletter on Building & Safety.

Continued other side.

PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION TIPS

To ensure faster processing of your residential and commercial building permit applications we suggest the following:

-  Provide the correct **LEGAL DESCRIPTION** on both the application **and** site plan.
-  Provide correct lot dimensions and setbacks on the site plan.
-  Show all easements on the site plan.
-  For new residential applications, provide the site plan on 8 1/2" x 11" paper for ease of scanning into our permanent records.

updates

April 2004

CURRENT BUILDING TRENDS

Building activity continues to move at a brisk pace in the City of Lincoln. At the end of February the number of building permits issued for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 was 115 ahead of the same time last year.



CODE UPDATE

Lancaster County recently updated the codes being used in the county to the 2000 Uniform Plumbing Code and the 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code. The biggest change for the county will be that any permits taken out will have to be done by a contractor registered in the City of Lincoln or the homeowner and he must reside in the home.

Building & Safety Department

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streamlining cont.

PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED:

 Other processes currently in the making are developing a Submittal or Intake Standard to be utilized for commercial projects, require Code of Analysis Information for commercial projects on the drawings, encourage preliminary code meetings with design professionals, use master plan concept for single family residential projects, explore the possibility of utilizing on-line plan submission, formalize the process by which conditional approvals are granted, review the sign code permit process, examine the need for landscape screening reviews as part of the building permit, reduce the special permits and allow for more conditional permits.

 Improve the City's web site and create an Economic Development web site for developers to use.

 Greater involvement from design professionals in public policy decisions which affect the permitting process.

Contractor Web Access



Use of the Building & Safety **Contractor's Web Access Site** continues to increase. Below are the most recent statistics showing who is using this site:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Architects & Building Contractors | 7,254 |
| Electrical Contractors | 6,345 |
| HVAC Contractors | 6,162 |
| Plumbing Contractors | 11,958 |

This represents 31,719 times that contractors have gone to the web site to schedule their inspections, obtain inspection results, obtain the latest commercial plan review comments, print an application form, check the status of their insurance, bond or registration, or review the latest Department information. New features continue to be added that make interaction with the Department easier and more efficient. For more information about the Contractor's Web Access, contact Rita at 441-6454.

SARS

Bob Siemsen, Chief Plumbing Inspector for the City of Lincoln, attended the International SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) Symposium in Los Angeles, California. Among those present were representatives from the World Health Organization, and the World Plumbing Council who presented papers on the outbreak of SARS in China just one year ago. The World Plumbing Council released the following information: By September 26th, 2003 there were 8,097 clinical cases, 774 deaths in 27 countries on 6 continents. By mid April of 2003 the company Morgan Stanley estimated that the SARS outbreak created a 30 billion dollar

impact on the world. A press release dated September 26th, 2003 from the World Health Organization states: *"Inadequate plumbing is likely to have been a contributor to the spread of SARS in residential buildings in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China. It also contributes to the spread of a number of other infectious diseases in several other countries. In the absence of proper maintenance, and without consistent monitoring, reviewing, enforcing and updating of building standards and practices, inadequate plumbing and sewage systems could continue to enhance the potential of SARS and other diseases to spread."* A separate document issued September 24th, 2003 from the World Health Organization talks about the plumbing system states: *"Whenever possible, venting systems should be free of mechanical devices."* Some of these devices are commonly referred to as air admittance valves, or automatic air vents. Fortunately the current Lincoln Plumbing Code does not approve these devices. As a side note, only 30% of the world has modern sanitation. On January 6th, 2004 articles in the Omaha World Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star reported a new outbreak of SARS in China.

